



## The Phoenix Family Readiness Group Newsletter

### 1<sup>st</sup> Special Troops Battalion, 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (M)



1st Edition, Issue 6 ~ 5 November 2005 – 29 December 2005

Families, friends and fellow soldiers of the Phoenix Battalion:

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter. In this issue, we will hear from the Commanders in Kuwait look at some notes from the FRG.

#### **BN Summary**

Greetings and Happy Holidays from Camp Buehring, Kuwait! The Special Troops Battalion has finally made it to an interim destination and we're still motivated and full of energy for the journey ahead. The past several weeks have been full of familiarization with the area, downloading equipment, training and of course...missing our families!

The transition to deployed lifestyle has been rather smooth and painless, despite the permeating smell of Port-o-Johns. We have to admit that the accommodations for living and food are more than adequate and should be even better once we move north.

Though we'll be separated from you all for the holidays, please know that you are in our foremost thoughts and we appreciate your support in our effort to defend America's freedom!

#### **Alpha**

Greetings from Camp Buehring, Kuwait, to the friends and family of the Nighthawks and the Phoenix Battalion. As I shake the sand out of my keyboard, I can't help but think how fast paced and electrifying the last five months has been as a commander. From NTC to our deployment to Kuwait, we now stand ready to defend our freedoms against terrorism.

The company strength is now up to 72 soldiers. One new arrival to the company family is Jayden Alexa Cornell, daughter of SSG Jared and Shandy Cornell. Jayden was born at 0430 on 19 NOV 2005, weighing in at 6 pounds, 9 ounces, and measuring 20 ½ inches.

Congratulations to the Cornell family! Another addition shortly before deploying was 1SG Ryan Welch. Originally from Mt. Ayr, Iowa, he came to us from the 2nd Brigade S2 Shop. Although arriving only a few short weeks before the deployment, he has immediately assumed the position and is serving with distinction as part of the team.

Our current training has been excellent and only adds to our level of experience. As we receive our equipment, we are preparing for our movement north into Iraq. This includes testing our weapons systems and communications equipment, as well as ensuring our drivers and all crew members are proficient on their vehicles. Some of us will be flying into theater, while others will ground convoy north in our M1114 Up-armored HMMWVs.

As the holiday season approaches, and as it will quickly pass, we would truly love nothing better than to be with our families. However, our nation has called upon us, and we are here to respond. I hope Christmas season finds you all well and in good health, and I pray for only the best for you in 2006. Likewise, please keep us in your prayers and in your hearts. Thank you all for your love and support of our soldiers. As always, we are only as strong as those we have left behind. We will be home before you know it!

**NIGHTHAWKS!**

CPT Clay Bell  
Nighthawk 6

#### **Bravo**

Eagle Soldiers have arrived in theatre and begun training for Signal and other missions. They are maintaining their outstanding motivation and always present dedication to excellence. Everyone is in extremely good spirits and ready for anything. 2LT McMillen and SSG Morris are leading 1st Platoon. SFC

Gonzalez leads 2nd Platoon along with SGT Butler. The Net Ops section is hard at work with WO1 Collins and SSG Newton taking care of the Network. Headquarters Platoon is providing for everyone's logistical needs with SGT Morris, SPC Dibble and SGT Royster leading the way. There is much keeping us busy, and so far there is great chow and good weather here, absolutely no complaints from some of the best soldiers there are.

Congratulations to MSG Guillory and SGT Royster on your promotions, keep up the good work. Also our former First Sergeant, SFC Tull made the MSG list. Good job! There will soon be a much anticipated address available to correspond with your soldiers, so be sure and keep in touch. The soldiers are in good hands with 1SG Apolinario, 1LT Simpson, myself, and the rest of Bravo Company leaders.

**DAMN LETHAL!!!!**

## **HHD**

The Renegades are on the ground in Kuwait. Most of the company flew out of Fort Hood early on the morning of December 12th. We stopped to refuel in Bangor, Maine, and were greeted by the veterans association of the town. They've made it their mission to greet each and every flight headed to Iraq or Afghanistan. The volunteers made us feel very welcome. After a long flight and a second stop in Budapest, Hungary, we arrived in Kuwait.

The Renegades are established at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. We're not getting too comfortable, since we'll be moving soon to Taji. But we have settled in somewhat, running a massive operation for the Brigade as it receives equipment from the ships in port and prepares to go north. The Colonel's Personal Security Detachment (PSD) has been shooting on ranges almost everyday. The Brigade Headquarters daily tracks hundreds of personnel and pieces of equipment coming to and from Camp Buehring. Each section makes time for



Above: Soldiers download vehicles at the port.

Camp Buehring. Each section makes time for relaxing in the sleep tents or grabbing a cup of coffee at the PX. The Renegades are quiet professionals whose long hours do not go unnoticed by the First Sergeant or me.

We're looking forward to a break on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, with very



Above: Soldiers firing at one of the ranges on Camp Buehring little training scheduled. It won't be like being home with our loved ones, but it will make the day a little more special. We'll head north soon afterwards, and then our real mission will begin. I can't wait.

**RENEGADES!**

## **HHC**

Let me begin by wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! The soldiers of HHC 1STB completed deployment, and we have all arrived safely in Kuwait. Our soldiers are eager to begin our mission in Iraq. We have trained hard during the past six months

in preparation for our mission, and its beginning is firmly within our sights. Our focus prior to our movement into Iraq is preparing our vehicles for movement, conducting weapons training, and IED awareness training. The soldiers worked hard and quick to download our vehicles and equipment from the ships once they arrived at port. Now we are test driving the vehicles and conducting maintenance to ensure they are ready for the long drive north. We are sending soldiers to firing ranges daily, so that they can test fire weapons and confirm their zeroes.

On Christmas Day, the majority of the company will be conducting a convoy live fire exercise out in the Kuwaiti desert. The training will put the MPs, personal security detachment, and the gun truck platoon through the paces of a combat patrol with live fire engagements. IEDs are a real hazard that we will encounter while in Iraq. The soldiers are learning to counter that threat by receiving hands on training on how to identify them and avoid them.

HHC 1STB will spend this holiday season without our families, but we are not spending it alone. We are sharing it with 180 our closest friends, friends who will become like brothers through the trials we will endure while deployed. To our friends and families, again I wish you all a Merry Christmas...

RAVENS...Live With Honor!

## **FRG**

The Phoenix Battalion FRG has three primary goals. The first of those three is to have the capability to contact 100% of dependants. This capability would allow the FRG to ensure that all important information can be distributed and that contact can be made in case of an incident. The best way to get this capability is ensuring that all alert rosters and contact sheets are completed and current. If you haven't filled out a contact sheet please contact your FRG leader. The second goal is to ensure that we have trained POC's, Points of Contact, to assist the FRG leaders in notification and distribution of information by calling and emailing. If you would like to volunteer please contact your FRG leader. The third goal is to establish trained and reliable Care teams.

A Care team is a Pre-assigned Family Readiness Group of volunteers (prior establishment of teams and coordination with RDO enhances team ability to support) that usually comes from the same battalion or company FRG as the Soldier and family. They offers short term care and support to families of deceased Soldiers or family members, they can also assist with families of critically wounded Soldiers or family members.

The CARE teams can offer support, comfort, meals, childcare and home care assistance. They can collect assistance information (i.e. sketch map to home, "best friend" or "key friend") information from unit family members and shares this info with the Rear-D prior to deployment and coordinates with other CARE Teams to provide collateral support when needed.

The Care team is notified after the next of kin and generally offers rapid initial assistance, but can continue to provide support as needed.

## **Newsletter Access**

These Newsletters are accessible via the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division website. To access the Battalion webpage with links to Battalion history, the FRG page and information about the Battalion's Crest /Insignia, Mission and contact information. Go to [www.hood.army.mil](http://www.hood.army.mil), on the right under Major Unit's click on 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, once you are at the Division webpage, click on Units, then 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade and 1<sup>st</sup> STB at the bottom. This will allow you access to all of the Battalion's links. The Newsletters are found at the bottom of the Family Readiness page under "Battalion".

## **Deployed Address**

There has been some confusion about the address. Below are examples of what the address should look like for every company. Please note that HHD has a different unit number than Alpha, Bravo and HHC. If you have any questions about the address please contact your FRG leader for assistance.

HHD:  
Cpt Joe Snuffy  
HHD, 1STB, 1BCT, 4ID  
UNIT# 50001

APO AE 09378-0001

HHC:  
SGT John Doe  
HHC, 1STB, 1BCT, 4ID  
UNIT# 50006  
APO AE 09378-0006

A Co:  
SFC Joe Shmow  
A Co, 1STB, 1BCT, 4ID  
UNIT# 50006  
APO AE 09378-0006

B Co:  
PVT Jane Doe  
B Co, 1STB, 1BCT, 4ID  
UNIT# 50006  
APO AE 09378-0006

### **FRG Meeting Locations and Times**

Several alternate FRG meeting locations have been discussed and may be used over the next year. Here are a few of them and the directions.

1BCT Rear Detachment Conference room, located in the North end of bldg. 10002 (next to bldg. 10001) on the North East corner of 31<sup>st</sup> and Battalion across from Bennett health clinic. If traveling up Battalion Ave. from Hood St. turn left on 31<sup>st</sup> and look for a parking spot.

1BCT FRG Center, Bldg 12022, located across the street from bldg. 10002 on the Northwest corner of 31<sup>st</sup> and Battalion.

Using other various locations to include: the food court at the Killeen Mall, the new food court on Hood St. and Tank Destroyer, the Bowling alley off of Sante Fe and Clear Creek and the Ironhorse Readiness Center were also discussed.

HHD's next FRG meeting will be held at the Killeen Mall food court on Tuesday, 10 January at 7:00 PM (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the Month)

HHC's next FRG meeting will be held at the BCT conference room in bldg. 10002 on Wednesday, 11 January at 6:30 PM (2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the Month)

A Co's next FRG meeting will be held at the BCT conference room in bldg. 10002 on Tuesday, 17 January at 6:30 PM (3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the Month)

B Co, all Bravo company FRG members are invited to attend the A Co FRG meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

### ***PHEONIX 6***

Families and friends of the Phoenix Battalion: As you can tell from reading the company sections of this newsletter, your soldiers are training hard and preparing their equipment for onward movement. The training here in Kuwait is designed to provide us with last minute "touch ups" and any final preparations before moving out. Your soldiers are fully trained and everyone is ready to move out and begin our mission. Morale is extremely high and the battalion is doing great! Nine soldiers have reenlisted within the last few days and several more are scheduled in the next week. Reenlisting in the combat zone allows soldiers to take advantage of some large reenlistment bonuses (tax free!).

As always, I would like to thank you for your support of your soldier. Knowing you all are with us in spirit gives us the energy and strength that will propel us into the New Year and on to our destination.

LTC John W. Cross  
Phoenix 6



### **To Dare Is To Do**

Larry A. Seaman  
Command Sergeant Major  
U.S. Army

John W. Cross  
LTC, EN  
Commanding